



28. (Previously Presented) The piece according to claim 27, said matrix comprises metal having a porous structure.

29. (Previously Presented) The piece according to claim 24, wherein at least one of said first and said second additional components is in the form of a plate in direct contact with the powder of said at least one metal hydride.

30. (Previously Presented) The piece according to claim 24, wherein at least one of said first and said second additional components is in the form of a plate in direct contact with a tube selected from the group consisting of a tube containing said at least one metal hydride and a rolled tube containing said powder of said at least one metal hydride.

31. (Previously Presented) The piece according to claim 24, wherein at least one of said first and said second additional components are up to 50% of the weight of the whole piece.

32. (Previously Presented) The piece according to claim 31, wherein at least one of said first and said second additional components are up to 30% of the weight of the whole piece.

33. (Previously Presented) The piece according to claim 21, said strip having a thickness equal to or less than 1 mm.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) The piece according to claim ~~34~~ 21 wherein said at least one nanocrystalline metal hydride comprises ~~MgH<sub>2</sub>-5at.%~~ MgH<sub>2</sub>-5at.%V.

36. (Previously Presented) The piece according to claim 21 wherein said strip is of a shape selected from the group consisting of straight, stacked, folded, spiral, curved, twisted and cut shapes.

37. (Previously Presented) The piece according to claim 21, said piece being formed to have intrinsic electric characteristics allowing measurement of its hydrogen content.

